

# Welcome to the Cal/EPA Environmental Justice Workshop Open House

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Facilitated Workshop

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM



### Welcome

To

# Cal/EPA's Fall 2004 Workshops on

The Environmental Justice Action Plan



# You can provide us with your comments:

- Dropping your comment sheet into the box
- By sending us your comment sheet via US Mail
- By e-mail
- Or, verbally this evening please fill out a speaker card.



# Overview of Cal/EPA's Efforts

Cal/EPA's EJ efforts to date have involved many stakeholders of various regions, disciplines and perspectives, including:



# Interagency Working Group

- Air Resources Board
- Department of Pesticides Regulation
- Department of Toxic Substances Control
- Integrated Waste Management Board
- Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Governor's Office of Planning & Research



# **Advisory Committee**

- Environmental Organizations (2)
- Community Organizations (2)
- Environmental Justice Organizations (2)
- Local/Regional Land Use Planning Agencies (2)
- Local Air Pollution Control Districts (2)
- Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs) (2)
- Large & Small Businesses (2 each)
- Federally Recognized Tribe (1)



# Intra-Agency EJ Strategy Integrated Two-Pathway Approach

- 1. EJ Strategy: long-term implementation
- 2. EJ Action Plan: short-term activities
  - Explore complex issues and test approaches
  - Develop guidance and tools
  - Integrate with Governor's Environmental Action Plan

Together they form an integrated approach to EJ implementation



### **Action Plan Activities**

# Key Efforts on Cumulative Impacts & Precautionary Approaches

- Develop working definitions
- Inventory methods & approaches
- Identify gaps/needs in methods & approaches to address EJ problems
- Develop guidance

**Ensure meaningful public participation** 



### **Action Plan Activities**

# Four Pilot Projects will be implemented in various regions of California by:

- Department of Pesticide Regulation
- Air Resources Board
- Department of Toxic Substances Control
- State Water Resources Control Board

<u>Develop children's environmental risk</u> <u>reduction plans (ChERRPs)</u>



Cal/EPA plans to conduct activities in the EJ Action Plan in five phases during the time period from 2004 to 2006



- Develop
  - Pilot Project proposals
  - Working definitions
    - cumulative impacts
    - precautionary approaches
- Inventory Cal/EPA's current public participation efforts



- Organize local advisory groups
- Collect environmental data and identify data gaps
- Inventory current precautionary approaches and identify obstacles
- Inventory current cumulative impact tools and identify gaps in current methods
- Develop common public participation guidelines



- Conduct preliminary cumulative impacts analyses
- Identify if additional precaution may be warranted
- Identify reasonable, cost-effective approaches and mitigation strategies
- Develop children's environmental risk reduction plans for pilot projects
- Complete activities to improve public participation and community capacity-building



### Phase 4

 Initiate children's risk reduction plans as appropriate and feasible

- Evaluate pilot projects
- Prepare guidance and recommendations
- Explore implementation options



# Questions and answers on the Environmental Justice Action Plan



# ARB's Southern California Pilot Project

Catherine Witherspoon

Executive Officer

California Air Resources Board



## ARB's Primary Responsibilities

- Protect Public Health
- Adopt State Air Quality Standards
- Regulate Mobile Sources, Fuels, and Consumer Products
- Develop Air Toxic Control Measures
- Implement Enforcement, Research, and Monitoring Programs
- Oversee Local Air District Programs



### ARB's Environmental Justice Policies

- Reduce Air Pollutant Emissions
- Strengthen Enforcement
- Enhance Community Outreach
- Assess Cumulative Emissions, Exposure, and Health Risk
- Promote Research and Data Collection



### Prior Environmental Justice Work

- Community Air Monitoring
  - Boyle Heights
  - Wilmington
  - Barrio Logan
  - Fruitvale
  - Crockett
  - Fresno
- Neighborhood Assessment Studies
- Data Collection
- Diesel Particulate Control



## ARB's Goals for the Pilot Project

- Improve Understanding
- Identify Regulatory Gaps
- Develop Emission Control Strategies
- Involve Community Throughout the Process



### Criteria to Select the Location

- Community Support
- Concentrated Air Pollution Sources
- Major Diesel Contribution
- Adequate Baseline Data
- Opportunity to Learn More



## Strategies To Be Explored

- Localized Controls
- Pollution Prevention Techniques
- Enhanced Enforcement
- Incentive Programs



### What We Need From You

- Which community would best satisfy our selection criteria?
- Should any other criteria be considered?
- What kind of clean up strategies should we evaluate?



### **Contact Information:**

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# Questions and answers on the Air Resources Board Pilot Project



# Public Participation and Community Capacity Building

**Contact Information** 

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See our Web site at:

www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/



# Public Participation and Community Capacity Building

- Inventory current public participation guidance and mandates
- Develop common public participation guidance



# Public Participation and Community Capacity Building

- How do you define public participation?
- What specific things can we do to improve our approach?
- How can we communicate better?
- What are the best methods for communicating with you?



# Public Participation and Community Capacity Building

Opportunity for your Input and Questions and Answers



What do we mean by multi-media cumulative impacts?

### **Multi-media**

Paths of exposure - air, water, food, soil

### **Cumulative**

Increasing successively, such as from multiple sources and over time



### **Existing definitions:**

### California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

"...two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts."

#### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

"The combined risks from aggregate exposures to multiple agents or stressors."

### **Environmental Justice Advisory Committee**

"The total burden of all emissions and discharges in a geographical area."



Cal/EPA seeks your input on the following:

### **Definition**

How should "multi-media cumulative impacts" be defined?



# Cal/EPA seeks your input on the following:

### **Inventory of methods**

What studies, protocols, or tools are

- currently available
- needed, but not yet available or used

to evaluate multi-media cumulative impacts on a community or area?



### **Future activities:**

#### **Develop criteria and protocols**

for identifying and addressing environmental justice gaps in standard risk assessment

### **Develop guidance**

on multi-media cumulative impacts analysis, prevention and reduction

### **Recommend implementation options**

including proposals for policy, regulatory, and statutory changes.



### **Contact Information**

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Opportunity for your Input and Questions and Answers



# Cal/EPA seeks your input on the following:

### **Definition**

How should "precautionary approaches" be defined?



#### **Environmental Justice Advisory Committee**

- Broad consensus on the importance of using precautionary approaches
- Many current environmental programs are precautionary in nature
- Additional precaution may be needed to prevent or address EJ problems
- Precaution does not mean a guarantee of zero risk, or a mandate to act without credible threat of harm



# Existing definition of Precautionary Approach: U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

"...applying judicious and responsible management practices based on the best available science and on proactive, rather than reactive, policies. Where threats of serious or irreversible damage exist, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a justification for postponing action to prevent environmental degradation."



# Existing definition of Precautionary Approach: San Francisco Board of Supervisors

"Where threats of serious or irreversible damage to people or nature exist, lack of full scientific certainty about cause and effect shall not be viewed as sufficient reason for the City to postpone measures to prevent the degradation of the environment or protect the health of its citizens.... Where there are reasonable grounds for concern, the precautionary approach to decision-making is meant to help reduce harm by triggering a process to select the least potential threat."



#### Future Activities

#### **Inventory of approaches**

where/how are precautionary approaches used and what obstacles would limit further precautionary action

### Evaluate whether additional precaution may be warranted

to address or prevent environmental justice problems

#### **Develop guidance**

on use of precautionary approaches in Cal/EPA's programs

#### Recommend implementation options

including proposals for policy, regulatory, and statutory changes



#### **Contact Information**

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# Opportunity for your Input and Questions and Answers



## **Next Steps**

- Next Public Meetings
- Next Public Comment Period
- Next Public Workshops



## We Appreciate your time

Please **leave your comments** sheets in the box as you exit!



### **Contact Information**

For more information, please contact Cal/EPA's EJ Program staff at EnvJustice@calepa.ca.gov or (916) 324-7582